CLAIMS

I Claim:

	J	
5	16'/	1. A member accessible information system for managing member information, and
	2 /	selectively providing member information to individual members, said system
	3	comprising:
	4	a plurality of remotely connected computers connected together over a network,
	5	members accessing member information over ones of said remotely connected computers
	6	means for maintaining said member information;
	7	means for searching through member information responsive to an information
	8	request from a member; and
	9	means for selectively allowing members to request said member information.
	1	2. A member accessible information system as in claim 1, wherein the means for
	2	selectively allowing members to request member information comprises:
	3	login means for receiving a member identification and corresponding password
	4	and, providing a logging-in member portions of said member information responsive to a
0 5 1	5	request.
400		
ar.	1	3. A member accessible information system as in claim 1, wherein the means for
	2	maintaining member information comprises:
	3	a webserver storing static content information and serving said static content to
	4	members;
	5	an appserver storing applications for use by members and selectively executing

stored applications/responsive to selected requests from members;

1410-67111

6

7

8

and functions, said database server managing said stored member information, procedures

a database server storing said member information and also storing procedures

9	and functions and providing selected portions of said member information responsive to	
10	appropriate requests from authorized members; and	
11	a policy server storing user security profiles and managing said stored user	
12	security profiles, each of said members' security profile indicating a level of authorization	
13	of a corresponding member.	
1	4. A member accessible information system as in plaim 1, wherein the means for	
2	searching member information comprises:	
3	a search engine having full text indexing and searching capability for searching	
4	member supplied documents stored in said system; and	
5	a crawler continuously searching and indexing searched said member supplied	
6	documents,	
7	said search engine searching and retrieving documents indexed by said crawler	
8	responsive to member requests.	
1	5. A member accessible information system as in claim 1, wherein said system	
2	further comprises a personalization server, said personalization server recording	
3	characteristics of content viewed by members and personalizing content, personalized	
4	content automatically being made available to corresponding members thereafter.	
1	6. A member accessible information system as in claim 1, said system further	
2	comprising an ad server providing advertising content to members.	
1	7. A member accessible information system as in claim 6, wherein said ad server	
2	manages ad content scheduling, serving and tracking.	

A member accessible information system as in claim 1 further comprising: 8. 1 2 billing means for tracking member use, deriving member bills from/member use 3 and billing individual ones of said members. 9. A member accessible information system as in claim 8, said billing means 1 2 collecting revenues from billed members. 1 10. A member accessible information system as in claim 1, wherein members of said 2 system are members of a common industry. A member accessible information system as in claim 10, wherein members of said 11. 1 2 common industry include suppliers, manufacturers and customers. 12. 1 A member accessible information system as in claim 11, wherein said common 2 industry is the food industry. A member accessible information system as in claim 1, wherein member 1 13. 2 information is stored on member computers, member computers being ones of said 3 remotely connected computers. A member accessible information system as in claim 1, wherein at least a portion 1 14. 2 of said member information is located on a central computer with said database server. 1 15. An information management system for managing product information 2 distribution, said system comprising: a central storage storing product information for products related to a common 3

1410-67111

4

15

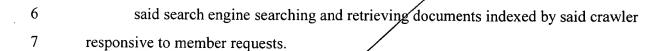
7	J.
•	

5	a web server interfacing members with selected product information stored in said
6	central storage;
7	a security policy server, selecting product information available to each member;
8	and
9	a specification storage storing specifications for ones of said products, stored said
10	specifications being selectively provided to ones of said interfacing members.
1	16. An information system as in claim 15, further comprising:
2	an app server storing applications for use by members and selectively executing
3	stored applications responsive to selected member requests from said web server;
4	and
5	a policy server storing user security profiles and managing said stored user
6	security profiles, each of said members' security profile indicating a level of authorization
7	of a corresponding member.
1	17. An information system as in claim 16, wherein said central storage is on a
2	database server, said database server storing and managing member information,
3	procedures and functions, and providing selected stored information responsive to
4	appropriate requests from authorized members.
1	An information system as in claim 17 footbox commissing a narganalization server
1	18. An information system as in claim 17 further comprising a personalization server
2	recording characteristics of content viewed by members and personalizing content,
3	personalized content automatically being made available to corresponding members
4	thereafter.
1	19. An information system as in claim 18 further comprising an ad server providing
2	advertising content to members.

1 20. An information system as in claim 19, said ad server scheduling, serving and 2 tracking ad content. 1 21. An information system as in claim 1 further comprising a billing unit tracking 2 member use, deriving member bills from member use and billing individual ones of said 3 members. 1 22. An information system as in claim 21, said billing unit collects revenues from 2 billed members. An information system as in claim 21, wherein members of said system are 1 23. 2 members of the food industry. 1 24. An information system as in claim 23, wherein said food industry members include suppliers, manufacturers and customers. 2 25. A member accessible information system as in claim 21, wherein one or more 1 2 specifications are stored on member computers, member computers being remotely connected to said information system, the location of remotely stored said specifications 3 4 being stored on said information system. 1 26. An information system as in claim 25 further comprising: 2 a search engine having full text indexing and searching capability for searching 3 member supplied documents stored in said central storage; and 4 a crawler continuously searching and indexing searched said member supplied

documents,

5



- 1 27. An information system as in claim 25, wherein one or more specifications are stored in said central storage.
- 1 28. An information system as in claim 21, wherein one or more specifications are 2 stored in said central storage.